

REMARKS

The Office Action contends that the present application includes the following groups of claims:

- I Claims 10 to 14 and 22
- II Claims 15 to 21

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for at least the following reason. The present application is the national stage of PCT International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2003/09796. As such, restriction practice is inapplicable. See, e.g., M.P.E.P. § 1893.03(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.499.

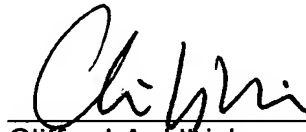
Notwithstanding the foregoing, and to the extent that the present restriction requirement may be maintained, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II, i.e., claims 15 to 21, for further prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

April 6, 2006

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